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SOME

H I N T S
T O

PEOPLE in POWER,

O N T H E

Present Melancholy Situation

O F O U R

Colonies in NORTH AMERICA.

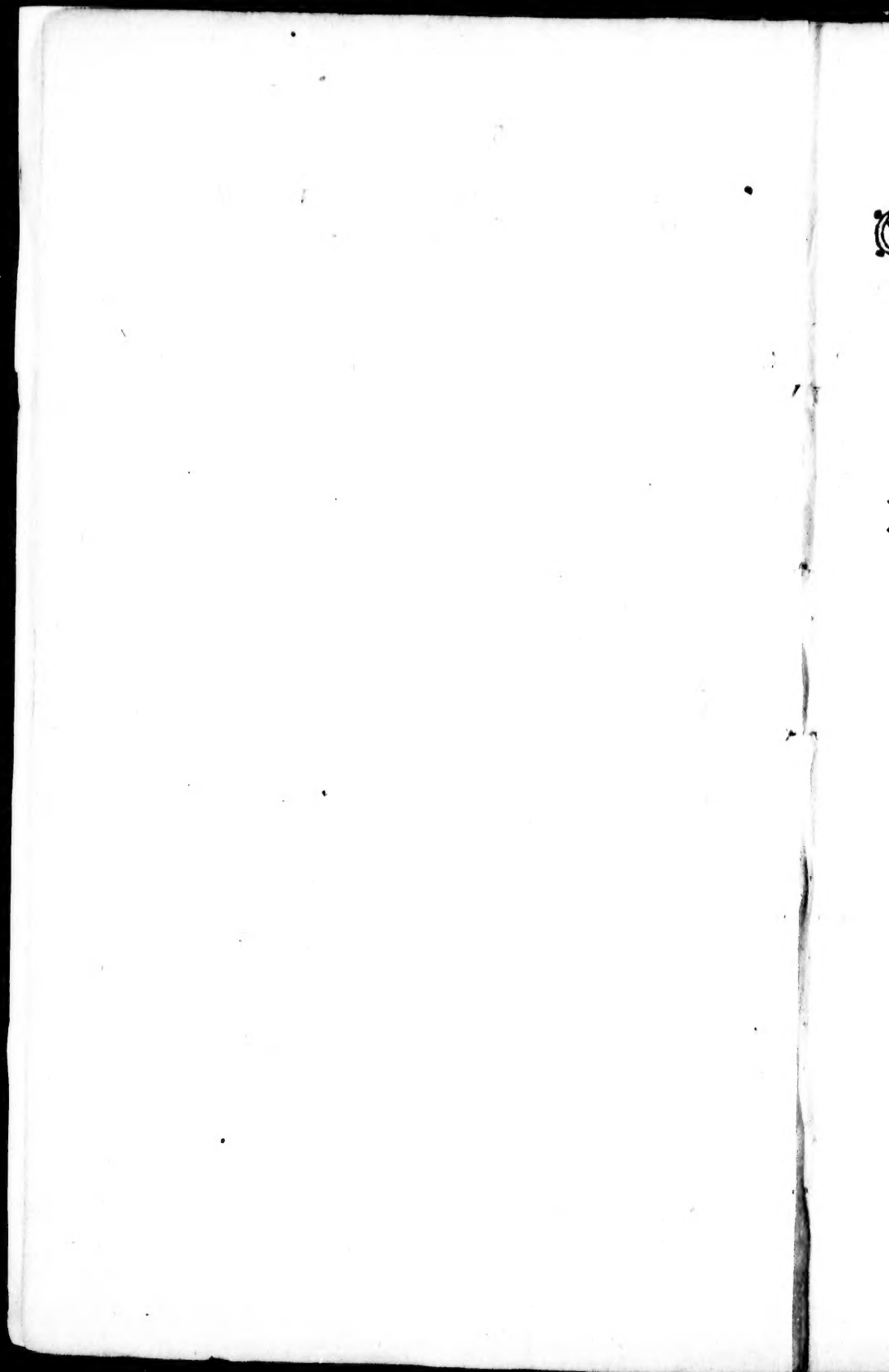
*Mea fuit semper hæc in hac re voluntas et sententia,
quemvis ut hoc mallet de iis, qui essent idonei susci-
pere, me aut mallet, quam neminem,*

Tu Victrix Provincia ploras.

L O N D O N :

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M D C C L X I I I.





T O

HIS MAJESTY'S

Principal Secretaries of State.

My LORDS,

I Intreat you not to think me guilty of Presumption, when I assert, that if the following Hints are taken *rightly* by your Lordships, much Honour will accrue to your Administration, and many Calamities be averted from the Heads of your Fellow Subjects. Who I
am,

(vi)

am, it matters not ; be persuaded only of this Truth, that could I devise any more effectual Method of contributing to the Service of my Country, no Consideration whatever should deter me from embracing it.

I am, My Lords,

With the greatest Respect

and Truth,

Your Lordships most

Obedient Servant.

S O M E

H I N T S

T O

PEOPLE in POWER, &c.

Quid est, proh deûm, hominumque fidem, in quo
ego reipublicæ plus hoc tempore prodesse possim?
Quid est, quod aut populo gratius esse debeat, aut
saluti fortunisque omnium magis accommodatum
sit? Populatæ, vexatæ, funditus everſæ provinciæ;
coloni, afflicti, misere, jam non salutis spem, sed
exitii solatium qnærunt.

TWO or three Years ago, the Con-
versation and Debates of every
Dabler in Politicks turned chiefly
upon this Question, *viz. Whether it would
be more advantageous to Great Britain to
retain all Canada, or cede Part of it in*
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lieu of some of our West-India Acquisitions; but altho' this Subject was so general, it appeared to me but ill-handled, and worse understood, till at length the Publick was obliged with that excellent Pamphlet, intituled, *The Interest of Great-Britain with respect to our Colonies in North America*.

This incomparable Treatise demonstrates, that no Acquisition whatever can be put in Competition with the entire Possession of *Canada*; it points out to us not only the infinite and various commercial Advantages which must arise from this Possession, the vast Increase of Sailors and Shipping, the Period it will put to that disagreeable State of Dependency we are in upon the Northern Powers for Ship Materials, such as *Hemp, Tar, Iron, Masts, &c.* the prodigious additional Consumption of our Manufactures;

tures; but it likewise makes evident to the commonest Understanding, that the Population of our Colonies and Mother Country go hand in hand together; that the Colonies (*when secure*) will increase infinitely from all Causes, and consequently the Mother Country also, as far as her Quantity of Territory will admit of; a Consideration, which alone must promise us more solid and permanent Power, and more glorious Advantages, than would the Possession of *Africa*, the *East* and *West-Indies*, put together; it likewise gives us so clear an Insight into the Nature of Trade in general, of the Connection of its various Branches, of the Difficulty of establishing Manufactures in a new Country, or removing them from their once fixed Abode, that I could wish it *was wrote in Capital Letters of Gold* at the Board of Trade; nor do I think it would be amiss to invite its

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Author

Author (with these eminent and singular Qualifications) to take a Place as a Member of that important Department.

But to return : If ever any real Doubts were entertained by Men of Sense, to which of our Acquisitions, *Canada*, or the *West-Indies*, the Preference ought to be given, I think they must effectually have been cleared up by the irrefutable Arguments of this masterly Performance.

Some time after the Appearance of this Work, were published two short Letters, addressed to a Noble Lord, upon a much more contracted Plan, but with the same original View*.

The Writer of these Letters does not pretend to discuss the commercial Ad-

* The Importance of *Canada* considered, in Two Letters to a Noble Lord.

vantages

vantages of either one Acquisition or the other, (being perhaps an utter Stranger to them both) but confines himself closely to what he seems convinced of in his own Mind, and what he probably flattered himself he should be able to convince his Readers of, viz. *The absolute Necessity of retaining all Canada, for the Security of our other Colonies.* This Position he endeavours to prove from these Arguments, *That the System of Politicks laid down by the Savages of America (who are a People of great natural Sagacity) is to preserve a Sort of Balance of Power on that Continent, by reducing the Stronger to an Equality with the Weaker; that whilst they are independent, they are able to accomplish this End. That as long as there are two different European Powers in America (I suppose he means two whose Interests jar) they are independent, as they can be furnished with Ammunition by one*

to act against the other. Was there only one Power, then they would be dependent, as the Means of carrying on War would be in the Hands of that Power alone.

But as their Ability of effecting so great a Work must appear incredible, or, indeed, in the highest Degree absurd to an *European* Ear, he, in some Measure, arms himself against the Imputation of Extravagance, by explaining the Circumstances in which the Superiority of the Savages over a civilized and settled Race of Men consists, *viz. Their amazing Hardiness of Constitution; their Patience and Perseverance; their excellent Cunning, and inimitable Swiftnefs; the irresistible Nature and Force of their Attacks; their Security from being attacked; but above all, the invincible Advantage which a People who subsist entirely on Hunting and Shooting, must have over*

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those

those who depend for Support on the Cultivation of Lands, as the Demolition of Crops and Habitations, and effectual Ruin, is to the latter one and the same thing; whilst the former, on the other hand, can laugh in Security at any Attempts of this Nature from the Part of their Enemies. For as the Bark of the Trees furnishes them with Shelter, and their endless Forests and numerous Rivers with Food, they know they cannot be seriously distressed.

In fine, the Letter Writer has laid it down as a certain Truth, that a Frontier in *America* is visionary, and consequently nothing can be a real Security to our Colonies, *but the sole and intire Possession of Canada.*

Now I cannot help thinking that the System of this Writer is in one respect glaringly imperfect; for as he positively advances,

advances, *that a Frontier in America is chimerical, that neither the most immense Rivers, nor the greatest Tracts of intermediate Wilderiness, are any Bars to the all-wasting Incursions of these Furies; why does he confine himself to the simple Possession of proper Canada, and a limited Tract to the Westward of the Lakes? Why did he not insist on the Necessity of adding all Louisiana to our Dominion, and dislodging the French from both Sides of the Mississippi? otherwise the Evil, from his own reasoning, is but half cured, as indeed we fatally experience at this Day. To this Objection I am at a Loss what Reply he could make, unless that at the Time he wrote these two Letters, he found the Generality of People at home so infatuated with their Vision of a Frontier, and so averse to giving our good Friends the Spaniards even the Shadow of Umbrage, that their*
Ears

Ears would not bear the Truth in its full Extent, so was compelled to be satisfied with delivering half his Opinion.

But as I am not quite so delicate as this Gentleman, and as my long Residence on that Continent, and frequent Intercourse with the *Indians*, (from having been considerably concerned in the Fur Trade) have perhaps qualified me as well for this task, and as I am prompted by the present melancholy Situation of our Colonies, I shall, with the utmost Unreserve and Freedom, communicate my Sentiments in regard to the destructive Tumult (for I suppose it is not decent, so immediately on the Conclusion of a *glorious, adequate, and solid Peace*, to term it a War,) now raging on our Frontiers, and which, I am apprehensive, will soon penetrate to the Vitals of our Colonies. It appears to me
then,

then, that there are only two Methods of treating this Evil; the one *by rendering the Indians dependent upon us*; the other, *by conciliating their Affections to us*. The former would not only effectually remove the Disorder, but prevent all Possibility of its Return. The latter will be but a temporary Relief. But as the Pulse of my Countrymen is at present, I am afraid, (on the close of so long, so expensive, and so bloody a War) too low to risk the former Operation (which is no less than *dispossessing the French from both Sides of the Mississippi, & before they can, in any considerable Degree,*

§ It may probably be supposed, that should the *French* be totally expelled from *North America*, it would by no Means follow, that the *Indians* would be reduced to a State of Dependency upon us, as they might still be supplied with Arms and Ammunition from our own Traders; in whom the Thirst of Gain is predominant over all other Considerations. But nothing can be more idle, than this Supposition. A severe Provincial Law, enacting it highly

gree, re-establish their Marine) although
I think, their dilatory and elusive Pro-

highly penal, or indeed capital, to hold any Traffick with the *Indians*, unless in certain established Marts, would render it impossible for them to obtain such Quantities, as to enable them to enter into a regular systematical War with us. They might perhaps, indeed, (if it was worth their while) smuggle from our Frontier Towns, small Parcels sufficient for temporary hunting, but this could be attended with no ill Consequences. Over these Marts proper Persons should be appointed to superintend, an Office, which the Commanding Officers of the respective Posts are, I think, full as well qualified to execute as any other Persons; for it may be asserted, (to the Honour of the Gentlemen of the Army) that the Majority of them (*provided the Temptation is not too vast, or their Power of too long Continuance*) have some Sense of Honour, and some Regard for their Country; an Assertion, which might perhaps be deemed rash in Favour of any other Order of Men. Indeed, I was once weak enough to wish, that the Management of the *Indians* might have been left solely to Sir *William Johnson*; but since that wonderful Discovery has been made, how dangerous a Popularity this Gentleman might acquire amongst them, by observing that Rule of Conduct which he laid down to himself, and which ignorant People (who are Strangers to the Ambition of the Man) call *Candour, Benevolence, and Justice*, I can by no Means think it adviseable, that he should be any longer intrusted.

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ceeding in the Demolition of *Dunkirk*, and infamous Disregard to Faith, in disclaiming the most sacred of all Obligations, *the vast Sums due for the Maintenance of their Subjects, who were Prisoners with us through the whole Course of the War*, would justify our adopting this Measure, not only in the Eye of the most rigid Civilian, but even by the Confession of those States who are the least partial to us.

But I say, as I am apprehensive the Pulse of my Countrymen is at present too low to risk this Experiment, I shall insist chiefly on the latter, and more moderate, which (although I am myself suspicious of its Efficacy) may appear to many well-meaning People the more eligible Method, viz. *The Conciliation of the Indians Affections to us.*

To accomplish this Purpose, the most infallible Means would be, to look back, and minutely consider our Conduct, since our first Communication with them, and then to resolve, for the future, to act in every Article *diametrically the reverse*; a Scheme, which with Difficulty will be put in Practice, unless the greatest Regard and Attention is paid to the Characters of the several Governors, and Commander in Chief, who are sent over to that Continent. I include the Commander in Chief, because the Nature of his Office, and the Extent of his Power is such, that the best Measures of the most accomplished Governors, might be defeated by his Ignorance or Perverseness.

As Mr. *Amberst*, I am informed, is returning home, (*a Circumstance much to be lamented, by the Colonies universally, and*

more so, if possible, by the Army, which has been so happy and victorious under his Auspices) I hope it will not be thought presuming, or unreasonable, to point out the Qualifications requisite for that important Trust.

The Person then who is appointed to this great Station, should not only be possessed of the fundamental Attributes of a General, such as *Courage without Rashness, Coolness without Pblegm, Activity, Zeal, Capacity, &c.* but as he is so far removed from the Inspection of the Government, and consequently his Authority little subject to Controul; and as the Bulk of People at home may form their Notions of his Merit and Conduct from his own Accounts principally, *by his having almost an absolute Command over the Packets*; and as his Office is not purely military, (but by a Sort of
 Courtesy,

Courtesy, has a Mixture of Viceroyalty in it) it is likewise necessary he should be endowed with many Qualities, which, in a General more immediately under the Eye of the Government, are not so absolutely requisite. His military Talents (though certainly very material) are perhaps the least to be considered; for as the Nature of that War (now the *French* are, in *Appearance*, out of the Question) is confined to the *Petite Guerre*, or *Partizan War*, it can scarcely happen that he should be under the Necessity of acting in Person.

His first and essential Business will therefore be to make himself Master of the Geography of that Country, not by poring over defective Maps, and the Legends of Missionaries, in his great Chair at Head Quarters, but by visiting himself, (as far as is consistent with his personal

sonal Safety) the great Chain of Forts and Posts on our vast extended Frontier; by examining, with his own Eye, the Conveniencies and Inconveniencies of the numerous navigable Rivers, the Navigation and Harbours of the Lakes, the Nature, Length, and Difficulties of the Portages * and Defiles, which must be passed on the different Communications: I say it is necessary that he should examine these Things with his own Eye; for otherwise, by Ignorance, or false Accounts, he may be led into a thousand Measures, UNNECESSARY, PERNICIOUS, and EXTRAVAGANT; such as making *an erroneous Distribution of his Troops, barrastring them to no Purpose, building expensive Forts, where they are not material; neglecting others that are; throwing away*

* The Distances from one navigable Water to another, over which Boats are carried by Land.

numberless Lives, by omitting to provide proper Vessels for the different Navigations of the different Lakes ; and a Multitude of other irreparable Mischiefs, which can only be avoided by his own immediate Knowledge of the Country.

After this, his next Care (as he is not supposed to act in Person) will be in the proper Choice of the Persons who are to execute his several Plans; and in this Mr. *Amberst* has set an Example, worthy of Imitation, to all who shall succeed him. He has greatly and boldly set aside that ridiculous Respect for Seniority, and sometimes been known to have employed *even simple Colonels*, in the most important Commands, in Preference to Men of superior Rank, but inferior Qualifications. But besides this Faculty of discerning what Men are best adapted to particular Tasks, as (from the Nature of
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that Service, Success depends on the Spirit of the Troops more independently of other Circumstances than in any other kind of War) there is one other Property more requisite (if possible) in the Commander of an *American Army*, than of any other, and for which the same illustrious Personage is equally conspicuous, as he is for all other Excellencies ; *it is that Warmth, that Zeal, that Animation, with which he never fails to reward any gallant and meritorious Action, immediately and amply, not only in the lower Order of Officers, but in common Soldiers ;* by adhering to which generous Maxim, he has worked up that Army to an incredible Degree of what may not so properly be stiled Courage as Chivalry *.

But

* Several very remarkable Instances of this Spirit have been related to me, by those who have served
in

But (as I have already observed) his Office is not purely military. He should have

in the *American Army* : From these, I shall only select two, which may serve as a Specimen of their general Character.

In the Year 1759, after the glorious Reduction of *Ticonderoga*, and after having seen that important Fortrefs of *Crown-Point* put on a respectable Footing, Mr. *Amherst* determined with his little Army to effect, if possible, a Junction with General *Wolfe*, in the River *St. Lawrence* ; but many almost insurmountable Obstacles lay in his Way ; amongst the rest some armed Ships of considerable Force ; one of which was anchored about a Mile from the Shore. This, two common Soldiers, or non-commissioned Officers, undertook to set on fire. They were accordingly furnished with Machines, somewhat on the Principle of what I am told military Men call a Petard, which they were to carry in their Hats, as the only Means of preserving them dry : Thus accoutred, they swam silently to the Ship, and actually fixed one of them to its Stern ; in the Operation, they were unfortunately discovered, and challenged by the Centinels on Deck ; but notwithstanding this, they persisted, moved to the Head of the Ship, and repeated their Attempt ; and, it is supposed, that they would actually have accomplished their Scheme, had there not been some unlucky Defect in the Composition, which would not take Fire ; so the Miscarriage must be imputed alone to the Artillery Officer, who prepared the Composition. However, notwithstanding

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have some other Qualifications than what are required in a mere military Man.

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the Ship's Crew was alarmed, they persevered until one of them received a Wound in the Shoulder by a Hatchet ; then with Reluctance retired. The other Instance, which I shall beg Leave to mention, is this : The Year afterwards, in the River *St. Lawrence*, at the Attack of *Isle Royal*, the Commodore's Ship, which carried a considerable Share of the great Ammunition, by some Accident ran on shore, within fifty or sixty Yards of the *French* Batteries, the Guns of which were immediately turned upon her, and at length obliged her to surrender, which might have proved a most embarrassing Event to the General. as the Loss of the Ammunition which she contained, might have impeded, in some measure, the Operations of the Campaign. The only Remedy was to be possessed of her before Night ; that is to say, before the *French* could burn her ; for whilst Day lasted, they would not venture to pass to her in their Boats, as they must have been exposed to our Batteries, which were erected on each Side of the River. In this Interim, two Subalterns with thirty Men, threw themselves into two different Boats, passed through the whole Fire of the Cannon and Small Arms of the Fort, entered the Port-holes, re-hoisted *English* Colours with their own Hands, and kept Possession of the Ship, until under Cover, of the Night, our Boats were enabled to pass to her, and by these Means to secure a considerable Part of the Ammunition. I pass over the taking of an eighteen-gun Ship, by three small Boats, at the same time, and

As it is probable that he will sometimes be under the Necessity of acting the Part of Mediator betwixt one Province and another, betwixt the Assemblies and their respective Governors, he should be endued with some Degree of Eloquence, and perfectly acquainted with the Grounds and Merits of their several Disputes, which can, perhaps, be only terminated by his Interposition. His Connexion with the *Indians* demand, that he should not only be a Man of consummate Integrity; of too liberal and extensive a way of Thinking to despise his Fellow-Creatures, because they differ

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from

and the same Place, the Landing of *Louisbourg*, and many other Feats equally brilliant, as I am not acquainted with the Detail of them; but I took the Liberty to be somewhat circumstantial on the two former Actions, as I had the Particulars from a Gentleman who was an Eye-witness, and who makes no doubt, but that those brave Men who performed them, were *immediately rewarded in a noble and adequate Manner.*

from himself in Complexion and Customs (when, perhaps, they are his Superiors in Capacity, and every thing which Mankind should, with Propriety, value itself upon). He should be a Man of too much Justice and Humanity to treat them without Regard to Faith and Decorum, because *they are called Savages*: I say, he should not only be really possessed of these Qualities, but (what may appear ridiculous to those who are unacquainted with the Singularities of the *Indians*) he should have them, in some measure, stamped on his Countenance, as of all their Singularities, none is more remarkable than their Superstition in Physiognomy: For Instance, they cannot separate the Idea of a down-cast Look from Malignity and Treachery, Reserve from Emptiness, or Solemnity from Stupidity. For these Reasons, *an open, frank and erect Countenance*

is of the utmost Importance, as is likewise an unreserved Style of Conversation; for they cannot be persuaded but that *inflexible Silence* must harbour evil Intentions; and, as it is certain, that the bare Suspicion of Evil being intended against them, may be attended with the most tragical Consequences.

It is highly incumbent therefore on whoever succeeds to this great Office, carefully to avoid giving them even the least Shadow for suspecting, that any illegal Encroachments upon their Territories are projected; for I can scarcely believe, *that there is so great a Monster in Existence*, as really to form any Designs of this Nature, when he considers, *that in order to gratify a worthless, upstart, rapacious Sy-cophant, he must involve whole Provinces in Ruin, Blood and Desolation* *.

People

* His Majesty's Proclamation of the 7th of October, with the View of leaving the *Indians* unmolested in

People of a desponding Turn may be apt to imagine, that, should the whole Earth be ransacked, no one Person (the present excellent Commander excepted) can be found, in whom all these rare Accomplishments and happy Circumstances are united. I confess, I once despaired of it myself; but, upon consulting some of my Acquaintance, who have been conversant with our *General Officers*, I have been assured that he is not without *his Fellows*.

in their Possessions, prohibits the several Governors, and Commander in Chief of that Continent, to pass Patents for any Lands, beyond the bounds of their respective Governments, or beyond the Heads of the Rivers, which fall from the West, and North West, into the *Atlantick*, but within these Bounds by vast Tracts of the finest Grounds, which the *Indians* absolutely deny were ever ceded to us, or fairly purchased by us. Indeed the *Six Nations*, or *Iroquois*, who should be considered as the Primum Mobile of Action to all the rest, scarcely ever hunt on any other Lands, than what are comprehended within the aforesaid Limits, viz. from the Sources of the *Mohawk* and *Susquehanna* Rivers, down towards the Ocean.

I shall

I shall now, with all Deference to my Superiors, venture to hint at the kind of Character best adapted for the Government of our Provinces, especially our new acquired ones; a Task, which I own would be useless, were Men immortal, or had we any Insurance that no *untimely Accidents* might deprive the Publick of those accomplished Gentlemen, who have lately (to the immortal Honour of the Government, and the Satisfaction of all good Men) with so much Propriety and Judgment been appointed to those Stations; but as the well or ill Administration of *Canada* is undoubtedly of the most essential Concern to the Publick, I shall dwell chiefly on the Qualifications which ought to be manifest in the Person, to whom so great, so extensive, and so important a Charge is intrusted;

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intrusted. He should not only be a Man of unimpeached Integrity, of a clear and *sound Understanding, but of the most governable Passions*; he should be one *whose Nature* WOULD NOT ONLY REVOLT *at Acts of Cruelty, but even at whatever has the least Semblance of Severity, Oppression, or Tyranny*; he should be a Stranger to Avarice, Envy and Revenge; he should be a Friend to the Constitution of his Country, and to the Liberties of Mankind in general; he should be a Man, such, in short, as the *present Governor is universally allowed* to be *.

But should that Colony ever be unhappy enough to fall under the Rod of a Man of an opposite Character, there is no painting to our Imagination what might be the Extent of their Sufferings; for (as no civil Judicature is established in that

* The Honourable *James Murray, Esq;*
Country,

Country, and as the only Charter of Security for their Liberty and Property is contained in the Capitulation of *Montreal*, the Spirit of which might be eluded by a thousand Prevarications *) their Persons would lie at the Mercy of his PASSION AND CAPRICE ; their Fortunes of his RAPACITY. Their Trade (the Source of their Fortunes) he might *monopolize into his own Hands, under various Pretences. He might draw Precedents from the iniquitous Proceedings*

* From the Nature and Circumstances of this Colony, it must be a very considerable time before any Form of Civil Government can be established. In the mean time, few of those who may be injured, will attempt redressing themselves, by Appeals to his Majesty's Privy Council ; as this Method will be attended with great Delays, Expence and Difficulties, especially when they consider, that their Oppressor must be a Person of great Weight and Interest, from the high Office which has been conferred upon him ; for such these poor People (who have been used to an arbitrary Government, where Merit is never considered, but every thing goes by Favour and Connexion) will naturally conclude their Governor to be.

*ceedings of his French Predecessors ; he might assert, in the Language of those Plunderers, that such and such particular Spots (perhaps the Portages through which all Commerce must necessarily pass) were Royal Posts, sacred to the Use and Emoluments of the Crown. Under these Pretences, he might confiscate (to what he would call the Use of his Majesty) the entire Substance of those unhappy People, who had flattered themselves with bettering their Circumstances, by an honest Industry in a legal Trade, for no other Crime but being ignorant of a Fact which no Man but himself is acquainted with, viz. That the Crown of Great Britain ever did or can assume to itself, without the Consent of the whole Legislature, the monopoly of any one Branch of Commerce whatever *.*

But

* His Majesty's gracious Proclamation declares in express Terms, that the Trade shall be free and open
to

But this is not all ; should a large Possession of Lands be the Object of his Avarice, he might, by dint of Menaces, force People out of their Property, or oblige them to part with it for Trifles ; which should they refuse, he might seize the most frivolous Occasion of imprisoning their Persons, burthening their Houses with Soldiers ; nay, he might proceed to the ultimatum of all Oppression, *the attempting to raise Money upon them by his own arbitrary Assessment*, in short, by every Species of Outrage, Violence and Tyranny, by disregarding all Laws, not only of his own Country, but of Humanity. He might reduce them to that degree of Despair, as to look upon a Flight to the *Mississippi* as their only Resource, or the Suf-

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to all his Subjects ; but a Man so totally blinded to every Duty, by the Dæmon of Avarice, as I am here *supposing*, would scarcely pay any Regard even to this sacred Edict.

ferings of their Conquerors *the* British *Troops* as their only Consolation ; for it cannot be doubted, but that even these, under the Command of such a Man (whose Power is so remote from Inspection and Controul) must have their Share of Miseries.

Those Individuals amongst them who are most conspicuous for Understanding, Courage and Merit, would be the immediate Objects of his Jealousy, Fear and Hatred. Their good Sense, he might apprehend, would render ineffectual all the Artifices he could use to throw a Colour over his Enormities ; their Courage might endanger his Safety, when he is no longer protected by the Nature of his Office ; and their Merit he would consider as a standing Reproach to his own Worthlessness. For these Reasons, he would beset those who are most eminently possessed of these Qualities with Spies, all their Mo-
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tions would be watched, and, in some unguarded Hour, they might give an Open, of which Advantage would be taken to their utter Ruin. All those who had Gratitude and Generosity enough to treat with Respect *Living Worth*, or with Veneration the Memory of a dead Hero, he would consider as his mortal and declared Enemies, as he must conclude, that it is impossible to reverence Virtue and Merit, without having in Proportion an Abhorrence for their Contraries. Nor is it to be supposed, that a Man of this Frame of Mind would confine himself to the Maltreatment of the most meritorious Individuals ; the Mass of the Army collectively would, in all probability, fare little better. In time of Peace (which would afford him no Opportunity of blundering them into Defeat, Slaughter, and Disgrace, through a lunatic Ambition of outshining Men, whose military Glories were sufficiently bright, without the Contrast

Contrast of his Absurdities) he might impose upon them every Sort of servile Drudgery ; not in the usual lawful military Labours, such *as clearing Communications, erecting or repairing Fortifications, &c.* but he might carry his Insolence to that Height, as to enjoin upon them as a Duty (for his own private Lucre and Advantage) the Tillage and Cultivation of Lands, which he might take it in his Head to call his own. Should they reject with an honest and becoming Indignation this inglorious Task, he might devise every Method of harrassing and distressing them, without condescending to assign any other Reason, than *that they had the Presumption to consider themselves as victorious British Troops, and not as the purchased Slaves of an Individual.*

I have been led into being thus circumstantial on the Qualifications necessary for this great and important Office, not only
from

from a Conviction that it may be of the utmost Consequence to my Country to be thus cautioned in some *future Times*, but from the Pleasure I feel in being able to congratulate *the Present*, in seeing it so justly, so adequately filled.

I shall have Occasion to say very little on the Subject of our two other new acquired Governments, *East and West Florida*, as the Administration of them appears to me to be of a much less intricate Nature than that of *Canada*.

The strictest Integrity is indeed here likewise of a most serious Consideration, as the convenient Situation of these Colonies, in regard to the *French and Spanish* Settlements both on the Main and in the Islands, might be a Temptation to Men who are not *strongly armed* in Honesty to enter into, or at least connive at some kinds of Commerce extremely detrimental

tal to their own Country, and beneficial to our Rivals and Enemies.

And I fancy that upon Inquiry, every reasonable Man will have sufficient Cause to be satisfied with the Election of these Southern Prefects, *the Governors of Augustine and Pensacola*. The former of these Gentlemen * has not only the bare negative Reputation of being a Man of Honour (which every Gentleman has an undoubted Title to, until he has forfeited it by giving some Instances to the contrary) but he has been tried, he has been approved in the most rigid of all Schools; he has (if I may use the Expression) passed the fiery Ordeal of Virtue; to say all in a Word, he had the Honour of acting in Capacity of Quæstor to *that generous, that amiable, that upright and clean-banded Nobleman,*
the

* Colonel Grant.

the Conqueror of the Havannah. As to the latter, or *Pensacola* Prefect, I am an utter Stranger to both his Person and Character ; therefore cannot pretend to say any thing either of his Virtues or Demerits *.

I shall now take the Liberty to hint to those Gentlemen, who in *any future Times* may be appointed to these Stations, that although all the Qualifications which I have here delineated, should combine in one and the same Person, they would be insufficient, if unhappily tarnished by one very ridiculous, but no uncommon Weakness ; I mean Provincial or National Prejudice. I am sensible it is unnecessary to address myself on this Subject to the present Governors, who fortunately are all Natives of *Scotland*, and consequently, to a Man, exempt from this

F Failing.

* For this Reason, when the Governors are spoke of in general Terms, through the Course of these Papers, nothing is alluded to this Gentleman.

Failing. But I shall suppose an *Irish* or *Yorkshireman*, (in their Situation, and with the same Extent of Power) thus unhappily biassed towards their respective Countrymen, what infinite ill Blood, Animosity, and Discord (obstructive to the general Good) might not their partial Distinctions create, not only amongst the Adventurers in Commerce, and Settlers, but even amongst the Military? When the whole in Justice ought to be treated indiscriminately, as the Children of one common Mother, and embarked in one common Cause, *the Welfare of their Parent*.

I make no doubt, but that it was this Consideration alone which induced the Government to set aside Mr. *Gage*, who was Senior, both as Officer and Governor, to Mr. *Murray*, and who, in all other Respects, was a Man of unquestionable Character and Abilities, but in

this Article could never shake off the unhappy Influence of his Education ; it seems this Gentleman was born in *Gloucestershire*, where he had imbibed so extravagant and illiberal a Prepossession in Favour of his Compatriots, amongst whom, indeed, he included the Natives of two or three adjacent Counties, that it is notorious he would (to the utmost of his Power) in every shape, patronize, abet, and promote the most undeserving of these, in Preference to others of the first Merit ; but who had the Misfortune to spring from a different Quarter of the Island. Indeed for the same Reasons, (on the Supposition of Mr. *Amberst*'s actually returning home) I can by no Means think it politick, that this Gentleman should be intrusted with the Command of the Army, (although I know, by the common Order of Things, it would devolve to him, as he is at present

second) for I should expect to see in a very short Time, the Bulk of the Officers of that Army composed of *Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, and Herefordshire* Men; the Consequence of which, (especially since the passing of the late Cyder Act) I leave to wiser Heads than my own to determine. But it may now, with great seeming Propriety be asked, what End I propose to myself, in giving this Catalogue of Virtues and Endowments requisite for the proper Discharge of these important Trusts, when it is evident, that they are already committed to the Hands of Men so every Way accomplished? I confess that this Exception would be just, were human Affairs less fragil; but alas! the Publick may be deprived of these excellent Personages by a thousand Accidents. Envy and Malice were ever attendant on exalted Merit; their best Actions may be misrepresented; their very Virtues may be turned against them;

them ; and such Artifices may be used,
 and such Clamours raised, by *ill designing*
People, that the present, or some future
 Administration, may find themselves
 under the Necessity of removing them,
 even against the Bent of their own In-
 clinations ; or they, perhaps, may them-
 selves voluntarily resign, finding their
 Salaries by no Means in Proportion to
 the Dignity of their Office, and the Af-
 fluence which they have been accustomed
 to from their Cradles ; and we may be
 assured, that they would shudder at the
 Thoughts of making up the Deficiencies,
 by any clandestine or indirect Methods.
 Or, as I have already observed, Man's
 Life is every where precarious, but more
 so in that Hemisphere. The Damps and
 vehement Heats of *Florida*, must un-
 doubtedly be extreamly prejudicial to
 Northern Constitutions ; but in *Canada*,
 the human Frame has innumerable Foes
 to combat with, not only the sudden
 Vicissitudes

Vicissitudes and rigorous Extrems of the different Seasons, the excessive Frosts of Winter, the Humidity of the Spring, the Intensity of the Summer Suns, but the Moon has likewise, in that Climate, a very extraordinary Influence upon some Constitutions, and is *productive of a Disorder which often proves fatal* *.

* This Disorder, in the *Indian Language*, is called called *Habonkeraxis*, or the *Malady of the Swans*, it being observed that those Animals fly higher or lower, croak, or sing, nestle together, or void their Excrements on each other, according to the Increase or Decrease of the Moon. I have been told by People who have resided long in that Country, that its Effects on the human Species are different, but all very extraordinary; sometimes the afflicted Person is seized with a fit of *whining, fawning, and crouching*; at other Times, he will burst out, without any visible Occasion, *into the most horrid Imprecations, stamp, kick the Chairs, roll his Eyes, and foam at the Mouth*; sometimes so strange a Mist is cast over his Eyes and Understanding, that he will mistake a Regiment of Soldiers for a Team of Cart Horses; an Officer's Face for a Spitting-Box; the Property of another Man, or the Publick's, for his own; at other Times, he will imagine himself **REALLY A GENERAL**, and fancy that he is giving proper Orders, and making a Disposition, when he is only uttering Volleys of *Bawdy, Blasphemy, and the lowest Buffoonery*.

From

From these melancholy Reflections, I have thought it incumbent upon me to contribute my Mite to the Service of my Country, by suggesting to People in Power, the Necessity of making Provision in Time, against all Events, by casting their Eyes on some Persons, who (if not exact Copies) may resemble, at least in some Features, these inimitable Originals.

A P P E N D



A P P E N D I X.

IT may probably be objected to these Pages, that they have nothing in them conclusive : to which the Author will only make this Answer, that were they conclusive, they would be no longer what they are entitled, and what they are intended to be, viz. *Meer Hints*. Indeed, they should, in some measure, be considered as an abstracted Corollary to the two Pamphlets, which they so diffusively quote, and of which the Perusal is recommended, for the better comprehending of many Circumstances in the present Paper.

F I N I S.



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